

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 04416 040631Z

13

ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1036

UNCLAS TOKYO 4416

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE DEMAND FOR GARNET SAND

REF: STATE 058118

SUMMARY: ELECTRIC POWER CUTS MAY HAVE ONLY TEMPORARILY REDUCED JAPANESE PRODUCTION OF GARNET SAND. HOWEVER, TOTAL IMPORTS AND IMPORTS FROM U.S. HAVE BEEN RISING STEADILY IN RECENT YEARS.

1. SEVERAL JAPANESE TRADING COS., MFRS., AND DISTRIBUTORS OF GARNET SAND STATED DOMESTIC PRODUCTION RECENTLY DECREASED 30 PERCENT DUE TO ELECTRIC POWER CUTS ENFORCED BY GOJ BEGINNING NOV. 1973. PRICE HAS RISEN SHARPLY AND DEMAND PRESENTLY FAR EXCEEDS SUPPLY JAPANESE MFRS. ALSO EXPERIENCING RAPID INCREASE IN COSTS OF LABOR AND POLLUTION-CONTROL MEASURES.

2. JAPANESE IMPORTS OF GARNET SAND: CUSTOMS CLEARANCE BASIS (SOURCE: MIN. OF FINANCE)

1971 - 1,118,406 KG (48,363,000 YEN) OF WHICH U.S. SHARE 355,116 KG (28,248,000 YEN)

1972 - 1,421,352 KG (97,840,000 YEN) OF WHICH U.S. SHARE 590,552 KG (78,024,000 YEN)

1973 - 1,964,715 KG (92,058,000 YEN) OF WHICH U.S. SHARE 760,608 KG (67,225,000 YEN).

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